

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8750

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE (IWYC)--
CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE PLANS BY ECOSOC

1. ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF UN ECOSO, WHICH CONVENED TODAY IS SCHEDULED TO REVIEW SECRETARIAT'S PLANS FOR IWYC AS SET FORTH IN PROGRESS REPORT OF SYG, E/5605, JAN 6, 1975(COPY HANDCARRIED IO/ LABW, SHIRLEY HENDSCH). SECT WILL BE SEEKING ANY GUIDANCE OR SUGGESTIONS MEMBER STATES MAY WISH TO GIVE. ONE IMPORTANT ISSUE ON WHICH SECT HAS NOT GUIDELINES IS HOW TO HANDLE SUBSTANTIAL AND GROWING NUMBER OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO'S) WHO DO NOT HAVE CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH UN, BUT WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SUBJECT MATTER OF CONFERENCE AND WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND. PARA 38, OF PROGRESS REPORT, WHICH READ AS FOLLOWS, IMPLICITLY ASKS FOR DIRECTIVES: "A LIMITED NUMBER OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITH AN INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER MAY ALSO BE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DIRECTIVES WHICH THE COUNCIL WISHES TO GIVE AT ITS PRESENT SESSION."

2. SECT HOPES TO TAKE CARE OF NGO'S BY ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES FOR THEM WHICH PARALLEL THE CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, AS REPORT NOTES "THE EXTENT OF THESE ACTIVITIES WILL BE DEPENDENT TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT ON THE FUNDS AVAILABLE." SECT FEARS THAT THERE MAY BE SO MANY NEO REPS THAT IT WOULD BE AWKWARD, IF NOT
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IMPOSSIBLE, TO ALLOW THEM INTO THE CONFERENCE HALL. THERE IS

ALSO CONCERN OVER POSSIBLY DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES OF EXTREMIST GROUPS IF THEIR REPS ARE ALLOWED INTO CONFERENCE HALL.

3. USUN RECALLS THAT PARALLEL PARTICIPTION OF NGO'S WAS WELL-ORGANIZED AND CREATED NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS AT STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE IN 1972, IN BUCHAREST POPULATION CONFERENCE AND IN ROME FOOD CONFERENCE IN 1974. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT THE SECT'S IDEA OF PARALLEL ACTIVITIES IS LOGICAL WAY TO HANDLE MATTER IF ADEQUATE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS DEPT MAY HAVE ON PROGRESS REPORT AND SPECIFICALLY ON NGO PARTICIPATION.

5. FOR MEXICO CITY--USUN APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S INTEREST IN FOLLOWING IWYC DEVELOPMENTS FROM MEXICO CITY END AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY VIEWS EMBASSY OR MEXICAN GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE AS TO NGO PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE.

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